

REMARKS

Prior to a First Office Action in this application, Applicants respectfully request that original claims 1-20 be canceled and new claims 21-40 be added. These amendments and new claims do not involve any new matter or objectionable changes. When the Examiner takes this application up for action, she is requested to take the foregoing into account.

The Seiple reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,484, discloses a personal emergency location system (PELS) comprising a small battery powered personal unit adapted to be worn by a person who may have fallen overboard from a vessel. The PELS has a GPS receiver and processor for determining the person's GPS location coordinates, and an RF transmitter for sending an RF emergency signal of the person's coordinate data to a nearby vessel (such as the person's vessel) within a short range. The PELS personal unit is updated with the most current ephemeris data during a time when the person is inactive on-board the vessel by plugging the PELS personal unit into an input module connected with the vessel's GPS system. If the person falls overboard, the PELS personal unit is activated to send an emergency signal with the person's location coordinates. See Col. 2, lines 36-51.

The PELS unit can also be plugged into a "night stand" when the user is asleep. The "night stand" connects the PELS unit to the on-board GPS system, updates almanac and current ephemeris data, and performs functional tests. The "night stand" also recharges the PELS batteries and updates the GPS receiver with ephemeris, almanac, position, and time data on a daily basis. See Col. 8, lines 50-57.

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The present invention is distinguished from the Seiple reference in a fundamental respect: the Seiple reference requires the night stand to be connected to a GPS receiver to update the PELS (mobile) unit with current ephemeris, almanac, position, and time data. The present invention does not have such a requirement. Further, the Seiple reference does not switch between modes within a predetermined time period as in the present invention.

These differences result in operational advantages, which are also not suggested or taught in the Seiple reference. For example, the mobile unit of the present invention can now be used with various different base stations or systems, whereas the Seiple reference is confined to a single PELS/night stand recharger system, and hence is not flexible enough to move from a system designed by one manufacturer to a system designed by another.

It is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe that there are matters relating to this continuation application remaining that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

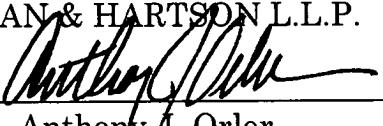
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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